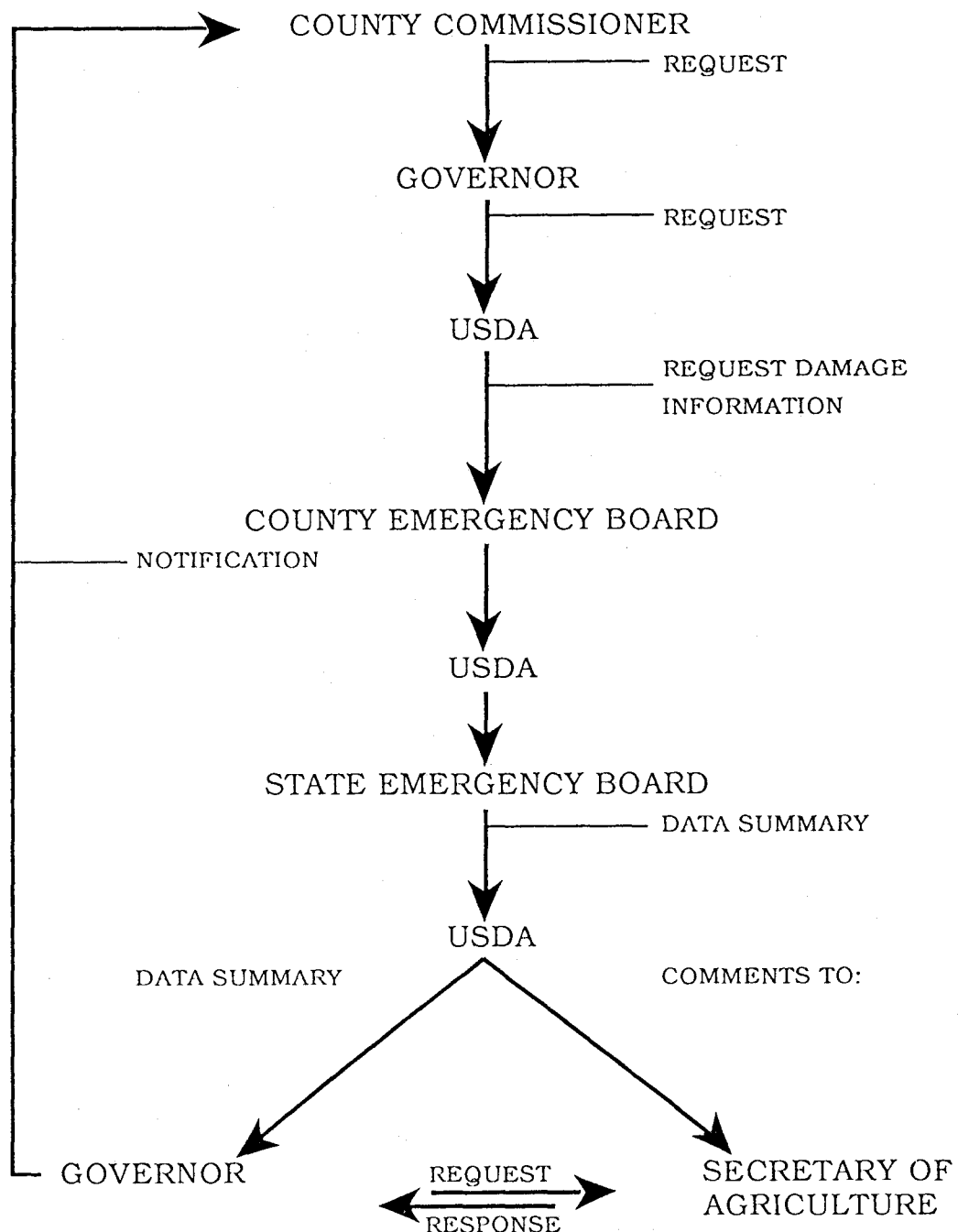


APPENDIX E: FEDERAL (USDA) NATURAL DISASTER DETERMINATION

NATURAL DISASTER DETERMINATION FLOW CHART (DROUGHT)



USDA NATURAL DISASTER DETERMINATION PROCESS

DES will coordinate the application process and implementation procedures for USDA Natural Disaster Determinations, assist in formulating any executive orders or proclamations, and act as liaison with other agencies and organizations in developing the natural disaster process. The current process is as follows:

- a) The county commissioners must request the governor to initiate the drought declaration process in writing;
- b) DES coordinates with the governor to request federal assistance through the USDA Montana office;
- c) DES recommends and prepares draft correspondence for the governor to notify the county commissioners as to the status of their request during the entire process;
- d) The USDA requests damage assessment information from the local CFSA and NRCS offices in the affected areas;
- e) The damage assessment information is returned to the USDA and forwarded to the State Emergency Board (SEB) for assessment and review;
- f) The SEB returns their recommendation to the USDA. The USDA forwards the final information with their recommendation to DES; comments are sent to the secretary of agriculture;
- g) DES prepares a packet for the governor including a draft letter for submission to the secretary of agriculture requesting Natural Disaster Determination;
- h) The governor sends the packet to the secretary of agriculture. The secretary of agriculture processes all information and sends a determination regarding Natural Disaster Designation to the governor;
- i) DES then prepares draft correspondence for the governor notifying the involved counties as to the final status of their request. Completion of the entire process can take up to six months (see Appendix E).

Producers in those counties designated as drought areas are eligible for assistance from CFSA. According to the Emergency Agricultural Credit Act of 1984, producers in contiguous counties are eligible to apply for the same assistance from CFSA.